

Faculty Development Program toward Proposing Research in Health Physics and Radiochemistry at Texas Southern University

The Physics Department at Texas Southern University (TSU), in Houston, Texas, one of the nation's largest Historically Black Colleges and Universities, has received a support under the grant number NRC-38-07-495 for developing a program in Environmental Health Physics. It is proposed to commence in the Fall of 2008, and presently is the only Health Physics Program in the Greater Houston area. This physics based program grants a B.S. in honors-level health physics with special emphasis on environmental protection. Through funding opportunity HR-FN1207-EDU2, we are also applying for further development of our program by introducing radiochemistry course in close collaboration with UT Austin. The program has been designed as a comprehensive curriculum (nearly graduate level) providing core training in nuclear physics and radiation detection in combination of very practical skills. We are also applying for student scholarships through NRC funding opportunity HR-FN208-NED01. Presently the program is supported by faculties with serious scientifically research background, but in the areas of nuclear and medical physics. The health physics program requires initiating health physics or radiochemistry research as well. We are asking a support for two faculties, who are supposed to develop research activities in health physics and/or radiochemistry. Presently, we plan one of the grants to be for existing and one for newly hired faculty. The immediate plan is to get involved in radioactive environmental monitoring (especially air pollution) research.